

**VOLUNTEER LOUISIANA COMMISSION**  
**PROVISIONAL MINUTES**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2013  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
CAPITOL PARK WELCOME CENTER  
702 NORTH RIVER ROAD  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70801

**Commissioners Attending:**

**Voting Members**

Karen Moss-Barnes  
Monica Bradsher  
Julie Cherry  
David Conner  
Dr. Leroy Davis  
Shannon Dietz  
Dr. Jennifer Falls  
Mike Manning  
Dena Morrison (arrived 11:20 am)  
William Stoudt  
Fabian Tucker

**Ex-officio members**

Pam Olson

**Commissioners Absent:**

Sharon Weston Broome  
Chris Gorman  
Vincent Ilustre  
Jenny Korner  
Robert Lancon  
Ann Masden  
Teresa Micheels

**Staff:**

Janet Pace  
Nicholas Auck  
Jawonna Mason  
Stephanie Trahan

**Visitors:**

Larry Barnett  
Shawn M. Bax  
Cheryl Bryant  
Toryah Cameron  
Onya Carter  
Jaime Cloud  
Johnell M. Colbert  
Thomas M. Costanza  
Lindsay Finlayson  
Shatarra Gibson  
Brenda Galle-Harris  
Julia Harris  
Betsy Irvine  
Judd Jeansonne  
Lee A. Jeter  
Sara Massey  
Daniel Meekins  
Ronnie Moore  
Marie Mullen  
Meghan Olinger  
Eldonte Osborne  
Adriana Poland  
Barbara Schuler  
Ronald Singleton  
Alisa Stevens  
Michael Tipton  
Pat Van Burkleo

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Julie Cherry called the meeting to order at 10:23 am. Secretary Monica Bradsher called roll. Quorum was not achieved until 11:16 am. The minutes were reviewed and Dr. Falls noted that she was in attendance and asked the minutes reflect this. Minutes were deferred for approval until quorum could be achieved.

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Julie Cherry presented the Chair's Report announcing that the Governor had appointed three new Commissioners: Karen Moss-Barnes from Shreveport, who was in attendance; Ann Madsen from Alexandria; and Robert Lancon from Jeanerette. She reviewed the April 25 Legislative Day at the Capitol and gave a brief update on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration progress. She ended by reviewing the AmeriCorps funding process that would take place: each applicant is given three minutes to present followed by two minutes of Commissioner questions. Public Comment will be held following these presentations. Once the AmeriCorps Program Committee recommendation is presented, Commissioners may ask additional questions and discuss the recommendation.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Leroy Davis presented the Treasurer's Report noting all expenditures were on track. Commission approval was deferred until later in the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Janet Pace reported that former Commissioner Camm Morton and current grantee University of Louisiana at Lafayette were named finalists in the ASC Innovation and Leadership Awards. The ceremony will be in September in Washington, D.C. She noted that the Background Legislation sponsored by Rep. Dalton Honore passed in the 2013 Legislative Session and the Volunteer Management RFP was finally issued. She said the Commission is undertaking a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary marketing campaign and a third Volunteerism Study. She also explained that the Commission would be relinquishing its VISTA operational grant because of the Commission's inability to achieve the goals it set given the current staffing. She noted there are plans to apply in the future to be a VISTA project.

**FORMULA APPLICANT PRESENTATIONS**

Six Continuation applicants, one Recompete applicant and seven New applicants made presentations addressing the identified need in the community they proposed to address, why their organization was suited to address the need, what the value added AmeriCorps would bring to the model, what their organization brought to AmeriCorps, the cost-effectiveness of the proposal, how a cut to the proposed funding would impact the program and how their program would move toward sustainability without AmeriCorps funding. Commissioners also asked what percentage of their overall budget the AmeriCorps funding comprised.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

After the presentations and Commissioner questions, Public Comment was held. Comment was given by Ronnie Moore, Catholic Charities; Shatarra Gibson, Catholic Charities; Jamie Cloud with Fuller Center for Housing; Julia Harris, SEE West Monroe; Toryah Cameron, Teach for America; and Ronald Singleton, Pilgrim's Rest CDA.

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Shannon Dietz, chair of the AmeriCorps Program Committee, presented the recommendation from the committee as a motion. He moved that the Commission fund five Continuation applications: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge in the amount of \$177,782; Impact Lake Charles in the amount of \$122,987; Louisiana Delta Service Corps in the amount of \$597,919; SEE West Monroe in the amount of \$274,350; and University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the amount of \$158,145 which is their FY12 funding level. To fund one

Continuation application, Shreveport Green, at a reduced level of \$66,500. To fund three new applicants, Boys & Girls Club of North Central Louisiana in the amount of 89,404; Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans in the amount of \$237,800; and Fuller Center for Housing of Northwest Louisiana in the amount of \$59,722.

Julie Cherry asked Shannon Dietz to clarify that he was recommending FY12 funding for Louisiana Delta Service Corps, as he read their FY13 request in the motion. He confirmed that the committee was recommending FY12 funding of \$597,919.

Mike Manning asked the Committee to explain their decision for the recommendation that they brought forth. Shannon explained that the committee desired to keep the Continuation applicants at their current funding levels. He said that Shreveport Green was struggling to redefine their model, and because they were trying to implement a new model, the committee wanted to give them minimum funding rather than not fund them altogether. He stated that TFA had the resources necessary to be sustainable without AmeriCorps funding. He said that the committee desired to bring new grantees into the portfolio and the two of the three recommended were from underrepresented areas of the state.

David Conner said this becoming sustainable was a strategy they wanted to see of programs going forward. Because two of the newly funded programs were planning grants, they wanted to move these programs to the next level. He noted that National Directs were not allowed to seek Formula funding in many state commissions and the Commission needed to really think about having programs become self-sustaining so that new programming could be brought in to the state, especially in times of limited funding. The committee wants to focus on grass roots programs, and because TFA was in a Recompete year, this was an opportunity to do that. He also noted that Commissioners carefully considered the percentage of the budget that was AmeriCorps funding.

Janet Pace clarified that National Directs don't have access to Formula funding in many small state commissions, comparable to Volunteer Louisiana. Larger commissions do allow access.

Monica Bradsher talked about the recently completed three-year study from LSU and noted that they identified the Commission's lack of success in reaching out to underserved and underrepresented areas of the state. This action would take a step towards addressing this.

Leroy Davis thanked all the programs for applying.

After no further discussion, Mike Manning called the question and Shannon Dietz seconded.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Chair Julie Cherry asked Secretary Monica Bradsher to call roll to ensure quorum was present. Monica called roll and 11 were present. Quorum was present.

**MOTION:** To accept the recommendation of the AmeriCorps Program Committee to fund five Continuation applications: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge in the amount of \$177,782; Impact Lake Charles in the amount of \$122,987; Louisiana Delta Service Corps in the amount of \$597,919; SEE West Monroe in the amount of \$274,350; and University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the amount of \$158,145 which is their FY12 funding level. To fund one

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**YEAS**

Karen Moss-Barnes  
Monica Bradsher  
Julie Cherry  
David Conner  
Dr. Leroy Davis  
Shannon Dietz  
Dr. Jennifer Falls  
Mike Manning  
Dena Morrison  
Fabian Tucker

**NAYS**

**ABSTAIN**

William Stoudt

The motion passed with 10-0 with one abstention.

**MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

With quorum present, the Minutes of the March 13 meeting were unanimously approved as amended on a motion by Mike Manning and a second by Leroy Davis. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved on a motion by Monica Bradsher and a second by William Stoudt.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Fabian Tucker, chair of the Volunteerism and Disaster Services Committee gave a report.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monica Bradsher noted key dates for Commissioners including the September 11 Commission meeting, October 24 Champions of Service event and two upcoming Volunteer Fairs in Baton Rouge and Shreveport.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by David Conner and seconded by Shannon Dietz. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 1:45 pm.